

SITUATION REPORT NO. 17
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: January 29, 1997 TIME: 1:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: Cass County officials reported two people died of heart attacks while shoveling snow, bringing the total number of weather-related deaths to nine.
3. DAMAGES: The Farm Service Agency estimates that winter storms have caused \$5.7 million in damages to buildings and machinery. Farm buildings have either collapsed or have been damaged by the weight of the snow and high winds. Many of these buildings were used for machinery or livestock needs.

The N.D. Game and Fish Department received an additional 154 reports of deer depredation of livestock feed by January 27, bringing to total number of reports to 647. The agency has expended \$200,000 budgeted for deer depredation and has received an additional \$400,000 from the Emergency Commission. Approximately one-third of the Game and Fish Department staff is working to address problems created by deer who are feeding and damaging livestock feed supplies. Snow depth and the severity of winter have limited food sources for deer.

Volunteers and staff members at the Mental Health Association of North Dakota have reported a noticeable increase in hotline calls from rural residents since the storms began. Rural residents' personal and mental health problems seem intensified by adverse weather conditions and prolonged confinement. They report suicidal feelings, loneliness, depression, family and relationship woes, domestic violence, financial and heating problems.

Snow removal contractors in Wells County accidentally struck a rural electric transformer, causing a nearly two-hour outage for 60 Verendrye Electric customers in Velva.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS:

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Snow removal informational meetings have been scheduled throughout North Dakota for January 29 and 30. Two teams of representatives from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT), N.D. National Guard and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management will meet with county emergency managers, county commissioners and officials from major cities. Meetings were held the morning of January 29 at the N.D. DOT Fargo District Office, Fargo, Cass County, and at the Grand Forks District Office Grand Forks, Grand Forks County. Other meetings, locations and times for January 29 and 30 are as follows:

January 29, 2 p.m.	Devils Lake, Ramsey County	Camp Grafton
January 29, 2 p.m.	Jamestown, Stutsman County	Emergency Operations Center
January 30, 9 a.m.	Bismarck, Burleigh County	Bohn Armory
January 30, 9 a.m.	Minot, Ward County	N.D. DOT Minot District Office
January 30, 2 p.m.	Williston, Williams County	Williams County Courthouse
January 30, 2 p.m.	Dickinson, Stark County	Law Enforcement Center

Teams of FEMA-State inspectors will begin preparing Damage Survey Reports at North Dakota's four Indian Reservations.

Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will visit North Dakota on January 31 to assess first hand hardships faced by livestock producers.

With the removal of snow from the state transportation system, the focus of N.D. DOT road crews is shifting toward clearing snow from medians on four-lane roadways. N.D. DOT snow blowers continue to assist county snow removal efforts.

The N.D. National Guard assigned snow removal crews to Grant, Emmons, LaMoure and Logan Counties on January 29. A crew operating two dozers, two tractor-trailers and two support vehicles was redirected from McIntosh County to LaMoure County. Another crew operating two dozers, two tractor-trailers and two support vehicles will be moving from Sioux County to Grant County. A snow blower crew in McIntosh County has completed their mission and will be moving to neighboring Emmons County to support operations there. In addition, five dump trucks and a loader were headed from Valley City in Barnes County to

the city of Gackle in Logan County. Since operations began, 342 National Guard members have supported missions began January 13. Presently, there are 36 completed missions, 26 in progress and 11 pending missions. The National Guard is also monitoring four N.D. DOT missions. Staffing for the four N.D. DOT and 26 National Guard missions includes: 71 Army Guard, 17 Air Guard, 18 Air Force and five N.D. DOT personnel. They are operating 27 dozers, 13 snow blowers, 21 tractor-trailers, 17 support vehicles, nine dump trucks, eight loaders and one grader. A weather forecast calling for highs in the 20s and lows at zero will be favorable for operations. National Guard officials expect to accomplish many tasks in the next few days. Officials commented that maintenance support has been outstanding.

A county-by-county report of snow removal efforts on January 28 indicated the statewide average for obtaining emergency two-way access was more than 78 percent while efforts to push back snow averaged 47 percent. Snow removal efforts have been completed in 13 far western counties. In the northwest quadrant, 12 counties and the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation averaged 94 percent emergency access and nearly 79 percent push back of snow. In the southwest quadrant, 14 counties and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation averaged 86 percent access and 47 percent push back of snow. In the northeast quadrant, which includes 16 counties and the Turtle Mountain and Spirit Lake Sioux Indian Reservations, the emergency access average was 71 percent and the average of snow push back efforts was nearly 24 percent. The 12 counties of the southeast quadrant report 62 percent emergency access and 18 percent push back of snow.

A snow blower crew from Minot Air Force Base participating in a rescue mission cleared the way for a fuel delivery truck to reach a stranded Richland County family. The family's fuel supply was nearly depleted. The snow blower crew had been working in Dickey County, but was diverted on January 28 to Richland County to assist with the rescue mission. The crew has since returned to Dickey County.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management has submitted a Notice of Intent to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for FEMA-1157-DR-ND (State Incident 97-003). The state team has identified four measures to mitigate or prevent heavy snow drifting, including relocated shelter belts, planting of new shelter belts, and proper slope on ditches.

The application period for the USDA Emergency Feed Grain Donation Program extended from January 10 to 25; however, local Farm Service Agency offices continue to accept applications. Local FSA boards will evaluate requests received by January 31. Applications received after January 31 will be evaluated by the state FSA board.

The cities of Lehr and Steele have issued Emergency Declarations. Since the winter storms began, 52 counties, 54 cities and three Indian Reservations have issued Emergency or Disaster Declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.

9. OTHER:

WEATHER

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports and photos of snow removal efforts are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director